

Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities Center for Disabilities and Development

Overview

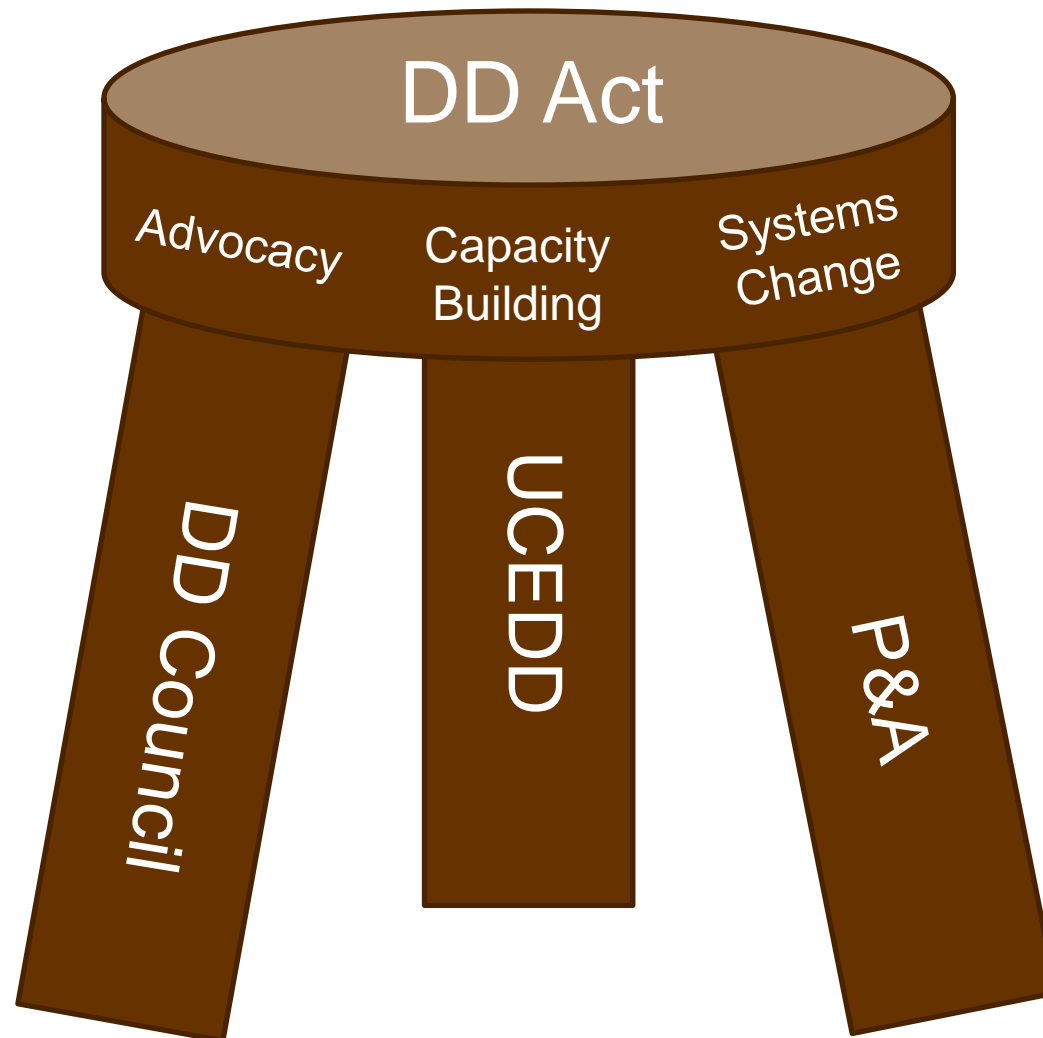
(rev. 8/01/18)

DD Act (2000)

The purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

- is to assure individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are participating in the design of and having access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life through culturally competent programs.

The DD Network



What is a UCEDD?

From the DD Act:

UCEDDs are designed to provide leadership in, advise Federal, State, and community policymakers about, and promote opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

- UCEDD network = 67 Centers
 - All 50 states and U.S. Territories

Core Functions of a UCEDD

- Pre-service Training & Continuing Education
- Community Service (including education, training, TA, direct service)
- Research (including policy analysis & evaluation)
- Information Dissemination

Iowa's UCEDD

Vision: A Life in the Community for Everyone

Through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities--carried out in partnership with state and national collaborators--all of our work:

- recognizes that people with disabilities across the lifespan, including those with the most significant developmental disabilities, have a right to **self-determination** and to **make their own choices** leading to independence, participation, productivity and inclusion in all aspects of community life;
- **partners with people with disabilities and families** at all levels of decision making, supporting them to take the lead in pursuing a meaningful life in the community;
- is designed and delivered in a **culturally responsive** manner, with special consideration to the needs of people with disabilities and their families from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those living in both rural and urban areas; and
- recognizes that **communities must be accessible** to and responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and their families and are enriched by their full and active participation and contributions.

Needs Assessment Process (June 2016 – Dec. 2017)

- Environmental scan
- DSP Survey (n=308)
- Community Conversations



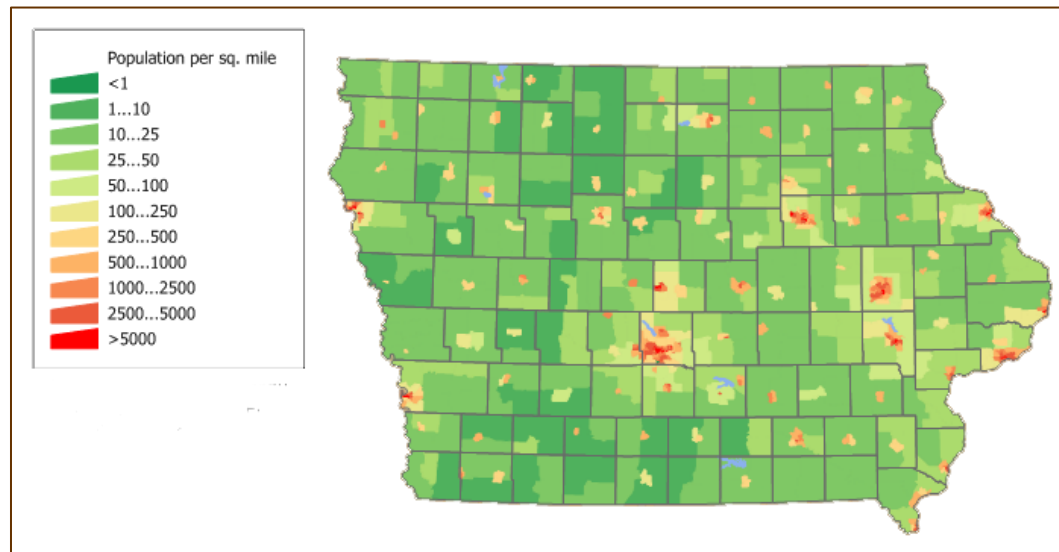
Approach

- Cross walk of identified needs vs. “fit”
 - Considerations include staff expertise, partnerships, DD Network priorities, anticipated funding, etc.
 - Also considered scope and ability to impact outcomes
- Four areas identified:
 - Employment
 - Health & Wellness
 - Education
 - Community Living

NOTE: Transportation infused within the above

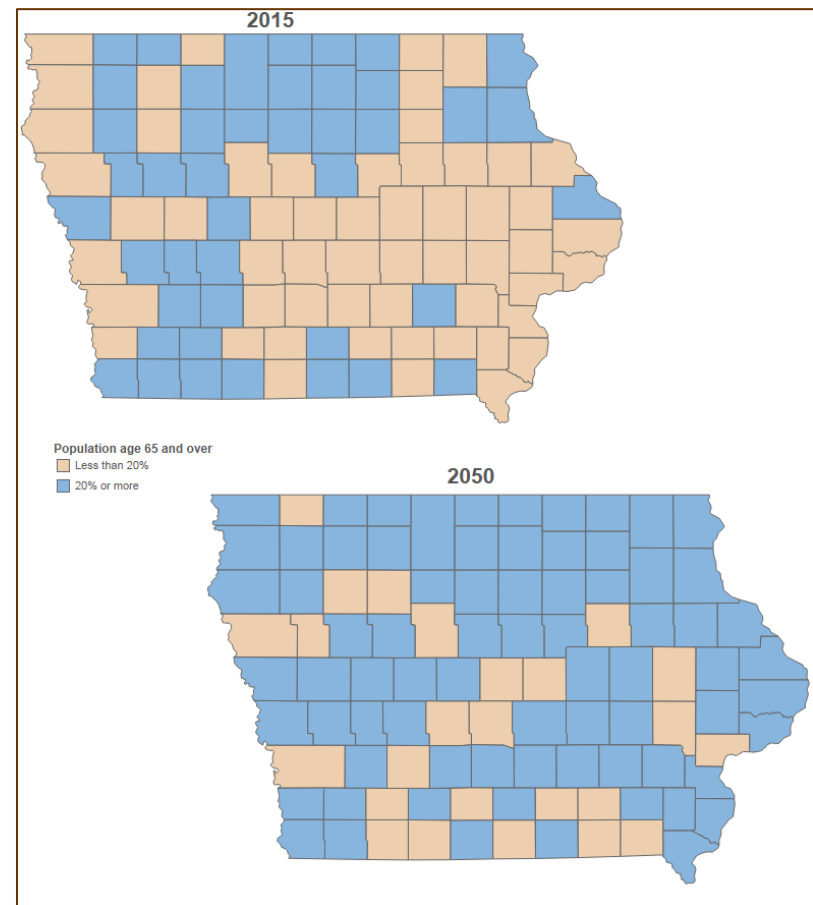
Project Relevance and Need

- 3.1 million Iowans (30th among US States)
 - Growth rate is half that of the rest of the country
- 64.3% urban / 35.7% rural



Project Relevance and Need, cont.

- One of the states with largest population of 65+
 - 16.1% of total population (14th)
 - 2050 estimate: 20%+
- Noted that as population age increases, so does incidence of disability

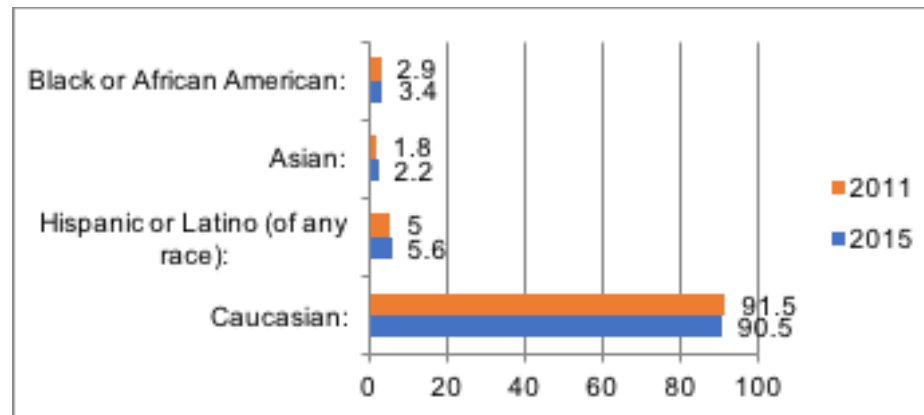


Project Relevance and Need, cont.

- 368,036 Iowans with a disability (2015 Census)
 - 11.9% of total population
 - 4.3% - children under the age of 18
- Median earnings of Iowans with disabilities: \$19,607
 - Compared to \$30,964 for general population

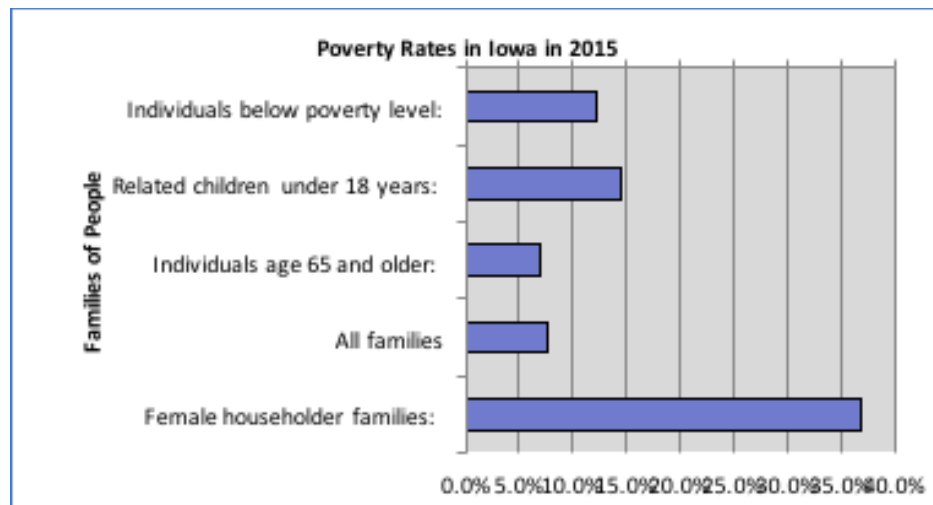
Project Relevance and Need, cont.

- Iowa is becoming more diverse



Project Relevance and Need, cont.

- Iowa's economy is currently stable, but faces many challenges
 - 2.9% unemployment rate (Jan. 2018)
 - Median HH income: \$54,736
 - Poverty rate: 12.2% (7.7% for families)



Needs Assessment Process, cont.

- Exploration of potential Areas of Emphasis
 - 13 originally explored
- Environmental Scan
- Narrowed down to five areas

EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



**HEALTH &
WELLNESS**



TRANSPORTATION



HOUSING



Approach: Employment

- Lack of willing employers, preconceived notions & low expectations lead to low pay jobs with little opportunity for growth or earning a livable wage
 - ***Education and outreach to the business community is needed in such areas as promoting the benefits of employing individuals with disabilities, concepts of job matching and carving, universal design concepts and availability of reasonable accommodations (including assistive technology).***

EMPLOYMENT



Approach: Employment, cont.

- Decreased reliance on sheltered workshop system without subsequent investment in retraining or access to other supports/services options leads to unemployment and no place to go.
 - ***There is need to enhance and promote job training opportunities in communities, as well as to increase the skills of direct support professionals to effectively serve those with the most significant disabilities.***

EMPLOYMENT



Approach: Employment, cont.

- Expectations for employment is not consistently promoted in school settings resulting in IEPs not supporting post-school outcomes for employment after graduation.
 - ***Effective partnerships between the community provider service system and schools are necessary to enhance access to life skills and self-advocacy training; the use of assistive technology at school, home and in the community; and quality work experience in the community with appropriate coaching supports.***

EMPLOYMENT



Approach: Employment, cont.

- Lack of understanding of the impact of work on benefits leads to unwillingness to pursue employment.
 - ***There is a need for expanded benefits planning for individuals with disabilities and their families as it helps them understand the ways in which employment and disability benefits can coexist.***

EMPLOYMENT



Approach: Employment, cont.

- A shortage of DSPs, and quality of available DSPs, limits opportunities for individuals to work. Additionally, Medicaid managed care has placed strain on the system resulting in service cuts and reductions.
 - ***The shortage of direct service professionals is a systemic issue that calls for a multi-pronged approach to promote these professions and provide multiple types of training and supports to DSPs to increase the availability and quality of services.***

EMPLOYMENT



Approach: Employment, cont.

- Transportation remains a significant barrier to employment. Limited hours of operation, lack of connected paratransit across the state, inaccessibility of public transit routes, and lack of infrastructure in rural areas were noted.
 - ***There is need to explore creative options to increase capacity for accessible and affordable transportation that meets the needs in local communities, particularly in rural parts of the state.***

EMPLOYMENT



Approach: Health & Wellness

- Services and supports are being cut or denied, and there is an increased shortage of quality service providers as a result of Iowa's shift to Medicaid managed care.
 - ***Helping individuals with disabilities and their families understand their options and navigate the system is necessary so that they understand their coverage, responsibilities, and rights; and can advocate for the services and supports that they need.***

HEALTH &
WELLNESS



Approach: Health & Wellness, cont.

- It is difficult to find quality, trained mental health and medical providers. This is especially true for children and individuals with IDD who are dually diagnosed.
 - ***In order to begin to tackle the mental health crisis in Iowa and fill the gaps in preventative services, particularly for those with the most complex care needs, effective partnerships between the disability and mental health systems must be established to develop and implement targeted interventions aimed at increasing skills of providers who work with this population.***

HEALTH &
WELLNESS



Approach: Health & Wellness, cont.

- Individuals with disabilities across the lifespan lack information regarding available health and wellness services and the supports that promote and enable individuals to live in the community.
 - ***Providers need to develop the tools and skills necessary for delivering quality services to individuals regardless of age and disability type or onset.***
 - ***There is a need for expanded resources that communicate health information in a way that is clear, concise, and easy to understand.***

HEALTH &
WELLNESS



Approach: Health & Wellness, cont.

- Challenges with nutrition, physical activity, and recreation exist. Very little nutrition education exists for individuals with disabilities, accessible physical and recreational activities can be difficult to find, and the high cost of some physical and recreational activities can also be a barrier for individuals on a fixed income.
 - ***There is a need for expanded options within communities for accessible and inclusive activities and opportunities that promote health and wellness for Iowans with disabilities.***

HEALTH &
WELLNESS



Approach: Health & Wellness, cont.

- Transportation can be a barrier to accessing needed medical supports and recreational opportunities. While many transportation agencies provide scheduled rides when needed, the systems and technology used for scheduling, particularly automated telephone systems, can be complex and difficult to navigate.
 - ***Examining the gaps and areas of improvement within local and regional transportation systems is essential to making transportation more effective for individuals with disabilities.***



Approach: Education

- Parents do not feel empowered to effectively advocate for the needs of their child, or do not know how to engage in this advocacy, and feel overwhelmed by the IEP process.
 - ***There is a need for expanded resources for parents and caregivers regarding the Pre-K-12 special education system to help them navigate the system effectively and obtain appropriate supports for their child.***

EDUCATION



Approach: Education, cont.

- Teachers, paraeducators and administrators lack awareness of the diversity among students with disabilities and best practices for supporting them.
 - ***Training on how to prevent and respond to challenging behaviors is needed, as is training to address the social-emotional and mental health needs of students in the school setting.***

EDUCATION



Approach: Education, cont.

- Schools are not providing adequate opportunities for students to develop and improve “real world” skills that will prepare them for a life in the community after high school such as social skills development, opportunities for interactions between students with disabilities and their typically developing peers and inclusive trades-based classes, work experience opportunities or paid employment.
 - ***Students with disabilities need more programming options to prepare for their future beyond school, particularly school-to-work programs and those opportunities that focus on social skills development.***

EDUCATION



Approach: Community Living

- Individuals with disabilities struggle to find safe, affordable, and accessible housing. Housing is often not accessible to public transit systems. Additionally, home modifications are costly and contractors are difficult to find.
 - ***There is need for expanded resources that identify and promote accessible and affordable housing options, as well as increased awareness of universal design concepts utilized in housing and infrastructure development at the local level.***

HOUSING



Approach: Community Living, cont.

- Iowa has a shortage of community supported housing or skilled nursing facilities for those who need this level of support.
 - ***It is necessary to train direct support professionals on best practices for supporting individuals with varying disabilities or special health care needs with the appropriate level of care needed to allow individuals to remain healthy and in supportive and safe living environments.***

HOUSING



Approach: Community Living, cont.

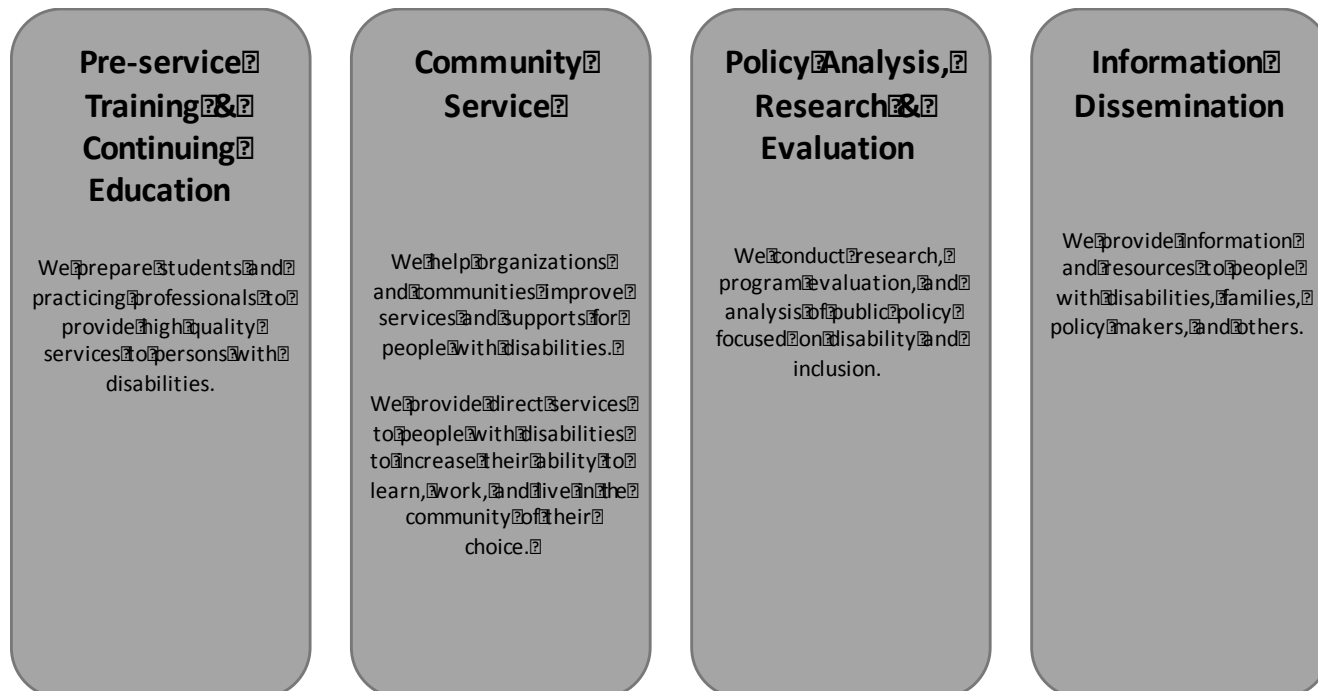
- The lack of available housing and support staff leads to an over reliance on the family or other caregivers to support individuals with disabilities who would otherwise be able to live independently in their community. Additionally, there is a lack of future planning taking place which creates concerns as caregivers age and become unable to take care of their loved ones.
 - ***Increasing supports for aging caregivers, and developing resources for effective future planning, is necessary to mitigate the effects of caregiver fatigue and to plan for the continuation of care for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.***

HOUSING



Work Plan

- Organized by core function
- Goals and objectives set for 5 years; activities will vary from year-to-year based on current priorities



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